

limit the profit margins of commercial gaming establishments because the house must collect a percentage of the pot to make a profit.

5 A need therefore exists for a method of playing a poker game and poker playing area in which the turnaround time per hand is shortened to thereby increase visual interest and improve profit margins.

SUMMARY

10 According to a first aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a method of playing a poker game including the steps of: dealing hands to players; during one or more betting rounds, requiring each player to check, call, raise or fold within a predetermined time; for each player, indicating incremental elapsing of at least a portion of the predetermined time; if a player does not check, call, raise or fold within the predetermined time: holding
15 the player to a check if no bet exists in the betting round; or declaring the player's hand dead if a bet exists in the betting round; and, after all betting rounds are completed, determining betting by ranking remaining hands; wherein the predetermined time is less than 60 seconds.

20 According to a second aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a playing area for a poker game including: at least one dealer station, a plurality of player stations and a corresponding plurality of pathways, each pathway extending from a central portion of the playing area towards a player station; wherein each pathway includes a plurality of consecutive elements that individually indicate incremental elapsing of at least a portion
25 of a predetermined time in which each player is required to check, call, raise or fold during one or more betting rounds of the poker game; wherein said predetermined time is less than 60 seconds.